

Message Text

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ACTION DIWY-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, IWY, MX

SUBJECT: U.S. FEMINIST DECRIES ELECTION OF MAN AS PRESIDENT OF
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

1. U.S. FEMINIST LEADER BETTY FRIEDAN, SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL
IN MEXICO CITY TO ATTEND WCIWY, CHARACTERIZED THE ELECTION OF
MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL PEDRO OJEDA PAULLADA AS PRESIDENT
OF THE CONFERENCE AS AN "INSULT." SHE WONDERED WHY SOME EMINENT
MEXICAN WOMAN HAD NOT BEEN SELECTED. SHE ADDED, IN PASSING,
THAT MEXICO IS THE "LAND OF MACHISMO."

2. MS. FRIEDAN'S COMMENTS, WHICH RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE IN PRESS,
PROVOKED A SOMEWHAT FLUSTERED DEFENSE FROM OJEDA: THAT THE UN
CONVOCATION CALLED FOR MALE AS WELL AS FEMALE REPRESENTATION;
THAT HE HAD BEEN ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY; THAT THE OFFICIAL CONFERENCE
DIFFERS FROM THE NGD TRIBUNE. AS A REAL CLINCHER, HE NOTED THAT
TO ACCUSE HIM OF MACHISMO WAS TO ACCUSE PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA
OF SAME.

3. COMMENT: AG OJEDA'S REJOINDER MAY NOT BE THE LAST WORD ON
THIS SUBJECT.

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